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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/671,588	09/29/2003	Bastiaan Lambertus Wilhelmus Marinus L. Van De Ven	081468-0306177	9983
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MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

MATHEWS, ALAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,588

Applicant(s)

WILHELMUS MARINUS L. VAN DE
VEN ET AL.

Examiner

Alan A. Mathews

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-11 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7, 12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/01/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

RCE

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 1, 2005, has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1 – 4, 8 – 11, and 14-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over del Puerto et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082030 A1) in view of Shiraishi (U. S. Patent No. 6,842,221 or Miwa (U. S. Patent No. 6,829,038). The Patent Application Publication of del Puerto et al. '030 discloses in figures 8, 9A, 9B, 9C, and pages 6-8, paragraphs # 70 - # 90, a dust-tight storage container below 903 defining a non-vacuum storage space to contain at least one patterning structure 801. Patterning structure 801 has a pattern area 803. It is further noted that paragraph # 47 discloses using the term “substrate” to include reticles. The storage container is arranged to be coupled with a transfer container 903. Element 919 is the closeable door for the passage between the transfer container 903 and the

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storage container. Entry-exit module 913 (or loadlock 925) is the vacuum chamber to receive said at least one patterning structure via or from the storage container through a passageway closed by element 931. Paragraph # 86 discloses pumping down loadlock 925. Figure 9J and paragraph # 90 disclose a lithographic exposure stage 947 which is inside process chamber 937. With respect to claim 4, element 937 would be a further vacuum chamber. With respect to claim 9, elements 931 or 933 could be considered to be slidable walls. Thus, del Puerto et al. '030 discloses the invention except for specifically disclosing an illumination system and a projection system. Shiraishi discloses in figure 1 the old and well-known concept of having an illumination system 1 and a projection system PL and support for a reticule R and a substrate table. Figure 9 also discloses a further embodiment with rooms 83 and 84 connected to pressure reducing pumps (see column 34, lines 53-55). Miwa discloses in figure 1 the old and well-known concept of having an illumination system and a projection system PL and support for a reticule R and a substrate table. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide del Puerto et al. '030 with an illumination system and a projection system in view of either Shiraishi or Miwa for the purpose of providing a complete lithographic system.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5 – 7, 12, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

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base claim and any intervening claims. The reasons for the indicated allowability of the claims are as follows:

The prior art does not disclose or suggest wherein the storage container is constructed and arranged to be coupled with the transfer container such that a part of a first shutter of the storage container and a part of a second shutter of the transfer container are coupled in order to be moved simultaneously into said storage space in combination with all the other elements recited in parent claims to dependent claim 5.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest wherein said vacuum chamber is arranged inside the non-vacuum storage space of the dust-tight storage container in combination with all the other elements recited in the parent claim to dependent claim 12.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest the step of forming said vacuum chamber inside the dust-tight non-vacuum storage space of the storage container in combination with all the other steps recited in the parent claim to dependent claim 13.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents cited in the PTO-1449 are cited for the same reasons they were cited in

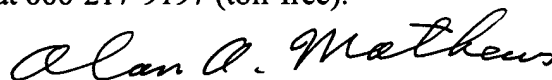
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Applicant's IDS filed December 1, 2005. The patent to del;Puerto et al. ix cited to show the matured patent of U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082030 A1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan A. Mathews whose telephone number is (571) 272-2123. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alan A. Mathews
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

AM